

REMARKS

Claims 12-15, 17-21, and 23-31 remain in this application, while claims 1-11, 16, and 22 are now canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Independent claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), along with all claims depending thereon, as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,826,612 to Goates. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 12 is amended above to more particularly define the configuration of the control duct specified. It is respectfully submitted that the Goates check valve does not include a control duct having a first end opening toward a planar connection side of a control plate and a second end opening exclusively into a transverse duct in the control plate that interconnects the control duct and a further duct in the control plate substantially parallel to the control duct as claim 12 defines. While the comments provided by the Examiner are noted, passage 124 shown in Figure 5 of the Goates patent does not have a second end as claim 12 requires; the second end of the Goates passage 124, instead, opens into both a passage leading to accumulator port 126 and a passage leading to feed orifice 126 and passage 132 (which passage is identified in column 5, line 26 of the Goates patent as passage 140). Nothing noted by the Examiner suggests modifying the Goates check valve configuration so as to meet the limitations now present in claim 12, moreover, and claim 12 above should be patentable. The rest of the claims remaining in this application are dependent claims and should be patentable as well.

This application should now be in allowable condition. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.57253US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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